

**The Acts of the Apostles I**  
***The Continuation of Christ's Ministry***  
**Acts 1:1-26**

- I. HIS FINAL INSTRUCTIONS (Acts 1:1-8)
  - A. *"The Former Treatise"* (Acts 1:1)
    - i. Refers to Luke (Luke 1:1-4)
    - ii. Treatise: a systematic document discussing verifiable facts.
    - iii. About Jesus
      - 1. works – *"to do"*
      - 2. sayings – *"and teach"*
  - B. The Chosen Apostles (Acts 1:2)
    - i. Their calling (Matthew 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-16)
    - ii. Their commandments (Matthew 10:5-16; Matthew 28:18-20)
    - iii. Their name – *"sent ones"* (Matthew 10:5, 16)
      - 1. A special calling
        - a) Jesus chose twelve (Luke 6:12-13)
        - b) There were other disciples who were never called apostles.
        - c) These twelve were given a special office as representatives of Christ.
        - d) They will sit on the thrones of the twelve tribes of Israel in the time of the kingdom (Matthew 19:28)
        - e) Paul was also given a special calling, though it was a separate calling. Paul often reminded those that he ministered that he was *"called to be an apostle"* (Romans 1:1).
        - f) Paul also reminded other that his calling was *"not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father"* (Galatians 1:1).
        - g) Paul was the "apostle of the Gentiles" (Romans 11:13)
        - h) It was not only a calling to preach, but a calling to represent God on earth in a special way.
          - i. The apostles could remit or retain sins (John 20:22-23).

- ii. What they bound or loosed on earth, would be bound or loosed in heaven (Matthew 18:18)
- iii. They spoke the word of God and confirmed those words with signs following (Mark 16:17-20).
- iv. Note: These men were given some power and authority by God that no one else was given, or has been given since.

## 2. Special Qualifications

- a) The individual must have been with Jesus during His earthly ministry (Acts 1:21)
- b) The individual must have been baptized by John the Baptist (Acts 1:22)
- c) Have been an eyewitness of the resurrection (Acts 1:22)
- d) Paul's exemption:
  - i. Paul was given an exemption on being with Jesus during His earthly ministry and being baptized by John.
  - ii. Paul would greatly emphasize his having been an eyewitness of the resurrected Saviour (1 Corinthians 15:8), going on to say that he was *"as of one born out of due time."*
  - iii. Paul would admit to being the least of the apostles in qualifications (1 Corinthians 15:9), unlike those "apostles" of today.

## 3. Special Confirmation

- a) Identifying a true and false apostle (2 Corinthians 11:13)
  - i. Paul spent time in 2 Corinthians confirming his apostleship and then sums it up in 2 Corinthians 12:12 with the following – *"Truly the signs of an apostle was wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."*
  - ii. A genuine apostle had the signs of an apostle so that people would know who they were. These signs included wonders and mighty deeds.
    - i. Paul performed these signs and wonders (Romans 15:19)

- ii. The other apostles also performed miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:12). When the sick came to be healed, “*they were healed **every one***” (Acts 5:16).
- iii. In fact, when Simon the sorcerer offered the apostles money for the power to perform miracles, they forbade him (Acts 8:14-22).

iv. Their position (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11, 12)

#### C. Apostles Today?

- i. Paul's apostleship was one “*out of due time*” (1 Corinthians 15:8)
  - 1. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles.
  - 2. Christ had a special calling on his life.
- ii. There may be men and women today who are doing the duties of an apostle (sent ones). They may even be sent to do a specific work.
- iii. However, this does not give them the office of an apostle as we see defined from the pages of scripture.

#### D. Infallible Proofs (Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:14-19)

- i. Define: *Infallible* – “*exempt from error; not capable of error; never wrong*”
- ii. The evidence shown:
  - 1. The stone rolled away (Matthew 28:2)
  - 2. The “sure” watch (Matthew 27:65, 66; Matthew 28:4, 11-15)
  - 3. The empty tomb (Matthew 28:6)
  - 4. The multitude of witnesses (Acts 2:32; 1 Corinthians 15:5-8)
  - 5. The testimony of Christ (Matthew 8:31; Revelation 1:18)
  - 6. The testimony of scripture (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4)

#### E. Christ's Passion (Acts 1:3)

- i. Define: *Passion* – “*suffering or agony*”
- ii. Humiliation and suffering – (Acts 8:33; Isaiah 53)

#### F. The Giving of the Final Instructions (Acts 1:4-8)

- i. Wait for the Father's promise (Acts 1:4-5)
  - 1. The promise of the Father (Acts 1:4)
    - a) Matches the baptism with the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:5)
    - b) Also called the promise of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:33)

- c) The promise proceeded from the Father (John 14:26; John 15:26)
    - d) The promise was received in Jerusalem (Luke 24:49)
    - e) The promise occurred as an event (Acts 1:4; Acts 2:33)
  - 2. The baptism with the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:5)
    - a) Prophesied in the gospels (Mathew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)
    - b) Fulfilled in Acts (Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16-17)
    - c) Marks the coming of the Comforter (John 16:7; Acts 2:33)
    - d) Begins the indwelling of every believer (John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9; Galatians 3:14)
    - e) A one-time event (Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:33; Acts 10:44-48)
  - ii. Trust in the Father's time (Acts 1:6-7)
    - 1. The restoration of the kingdom (Acts 1:6)
      - a) Promised in the Old Testament (Isaiah 9:6-7)
      - b) Promised at the birth of Christ (Luke 1:31-33)
      - c) Preached by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-2)
      - d) Preached by Jesus Christ (Mark 1:14-15)
      - e) Preached by the twelve apostles (Matthew 10:5-7)
    - 2. The ignorance of the apostles (Acts 1:7) – Note: The kingdom will yet be restored to Israel (Romans 11:25-29)
  - iii. Go by the Spirit's power (Acts 1:8)
    - 1. In Jerusalem
    - 2. In Judaea
    - 3. In Samaria
    - 4. To the uttermost (2 Corinthians 10:16)
- II. HIS ASCENSION (Acts 1:9-11)
  - A. The Departure of the Risen Christ (Acts 1:9-11)
    - i. Taken out of sight (Acts 1:9; Luke 24:51)
      - 1. While they beheld
      - 2. Behind a cloud
    - ii. Certain to return (Acts 1:10-11)
      - 1. The two men (Acts 1:10)
      - 2. The promise to return (Acts 1:11)
        - a) In the same place (Zechariah 14:4)

- b) In the same person (Malachi 3:1)
- c) In the same plainness (Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7)
- d) In the same procedure (Daniel 7:13-14) – in the clouds
- e) In the same power (Matthew 24:30; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

B. The Question from the Angels (Acts 1:11; compare to Luke 24:5)

III. HIS APOSTLES (Acts 1:12-26)

A. The Obedience of the Disciples (Acts 1:12-14)

i. In Jerusalem (Acts 1:12; Luke 24:49)

1. From Mount Olivet

2. A Sabbath day's journey

a) The Old Testament had commanded them to stay in their place (Exodus 16:29).

b) It is believed that the 2,000 cubits (3,000 feet) given in Numbers 35:5 was also the given distance of a sabbath's day journey (Numbers 35:5).

*Numbers 35:5* “And ye shall measure from without the city on the east side **two thousand cubits**, and on the south side **two thousand cubits**, and on the west side **two thousand cubits**, and on the north side **two thousand cubits**; and the city shall be in the midst: this shall be to them the suburbs of the cities.”

c) Slightly over ½ mile.

ii. In the upper room (Acts 1:13; Luke 22:12)

iii. In continual prayer (Acts 1:14) – with one accord (Acts 2:1, 46; Acts 4:24; Philippians 2:1-2)

*Philippians 2:1-2* “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, **being of one accord, of one mind.**”

B. The Prophecy Concerning Judas (Acts 1:15-20)

i. His ministry (Acts 1:15-17)

1. By the message of Peter (Acts 1:15)

2. By the words of the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:16-17; Psalm 41:9; Psalm 55:12-14)

ii. His death (Acts 1:18-19)

1. The manner of death (Acts 1:18; Matthew 27:3-5)
2. The field of blood (Acts 1:19; Matthew 27:6-10)
- iii. His replacement (Acts 1:20; Psalm 69:25; Psalm 109:8-10)
- C. The Choosing of Matthias (Acts 1:21-26)
  - i. His qualifications (Acts 1:21-22)
    1. A companion of Jesus (Acts 1:21; John 6:66; John 15:27)

***John 15:27*** “And ye also shall bear witness, **because ye have been with me from the beginning.**”

2. A recipient of John’s baptism (Acts 1:22a; John 1:35-37)
3. A witness of the resurrection (Acts 1:22b; Acts 4:33)
- ii. His appointment (Acts 1:23-26)
  1. The appointment of two (Acts 1:23)
  2. The prayer of the apostles (Acts 1:24-25)
  3. The lot of Mathias (Acts 1:26; Acts 2:14; Acts 6:2)
- iii. Note: Paul was not one of the twelve
  1. He only met the third qualification (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 9:1; 1 Corinthians 15:8-9)

***1 Corinthians 15:8-9*** “And last of all he was seen of me also, **as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.**”

2. He was the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13)

***Romans 11:13*** “For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as **I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.**”